Scheme to extract coal from river beds

772. SHRI V. RAJAN CHELLAPPA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coal India Limited had launched any scheme to extract coal from the river beds;

(b) whether this scheme has been discontinued after implementing it partially;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when the work is likely to be resumed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) to (d.) The Government have sanctioned *an* advance action scheme for initiating preliminary activities in respect of Damodar river diversion project of Central Coalfields Ltd. for an amount of Rs. 5.59 crores. The proposed Damodar river diversion project is expected to release about 80 million tonnes of coking coal of Kargali seam which is proposed to be later exploited by opencast mining.

In Western Coalfields Ltd. Amb river diversion scheme was approved in April, 1993 for a capital outlay *at* Rs. 27.99 crores and work is undertaken in phases depending upon progress of land acquisition and other requirements.

Modernisation of coal mines

773. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of modernisation projects taken up in different coal mines of CIL so far;

(b) what are those coal mines; and

(e) the progress made so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) to (c) 20 modernisation projects (costing Rs. 20 crores and above each) were taken up in Coal India Limited for re-organisation. Out of these 20 projects, 9 are on going and 11 have been completed. Names of these projects are as under- —

BCCL	Status
North Amlabad UG .	On-going
Bhulgora UG .	On-going
Kniras UG .	Completed
Keshalpui Exp. 11 OC.	Completed
CCL	
Saunde D UG	On-going
Kay-Bach™ UG . .	On-going
Karnita Int. OC .	Completed
Kalhara OC	Completed
Selected Dhori OC. .	Completed
CCL	
Kottadih (OC+UG) .	On-going
Amritnagar *UG* .	On-going
J.K Nagar UG .	On-going
Dhemomain UG	Completed
SECL	
Ramnagar RO UG .	Completed
Rajgamar RO UG	Completed
WCL	
Sasti RO UG	On-going
Durgapur Rayat. UG . .	On-going
Pathakhera Expn. UG	Completed
Umrer Expn. OC . .	Completed
Silewara II UG.	Complete

Increased coal cess in N. E. Region

774. SHRI T. VENKATRAM REDDY; Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state: